

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending, including independent claims 1 and 8. Claims 11-20 were canceled previously in response to a restriction requirement.

All claims have been rejected on the basis of prior art, with the primary reference being U.S. Patent 5,740,304 ("Katsuyama").

Applicant's invention is directed to the problem of requiring the user to choose from a menu screen a playback start position for, e.g., a DVD from among several choices that are identified only by a number (e.g., application at pg. 1, line 27 to pg. 2, line 25). The most general concept of Applicant's invention is to display images associated with each playback position, so that the user can more easily understand and recall the contents of the various playback positions (e.g., application at pg. 3, lines 11-27).

In a preferred embodiment, when a user is playing a DVD and provides an instruction to mark the current position as a playback-start position, the system controller creates marked-playback-start-position specifying data required for specifying the marked playback start position. The data, stored in RAM, may include a DVD identification, the number of the VTS of the title being played, and a playback time from the start of playing the title (e.g., application at pg. 12, line 22 to pg. 13, line 11). When requested by a user, the system controller displays the marked-playback-start-position selection-menu screen, including the images corresponding to the playback choices. In one implementation, the images are obtained from the DVD itself when the user presses a key to display the marked-playback-start-position selection-menu screen (e.g., application at pg. 13, line 13 to pg. 14, line 16).

Katsuyama is directed to a system which is capable of replaying a recording medium (such as a video CD) from a predetermined location using a bookmark that is set by a user (e.g., Abstract; col. 1, lines 11-16). If the bookmark replay operation is

requested, a menu of the stored bookmarks is displayed to the user to make a selection (col. 27, lines 20-31). Katsuyama also states that "the i-picture and the still picture at the replay point of the respective marks" may be displayed on the screen during the replay operation (col. 29, lines 5-11). Applicant believes Katsuyama is suggesting that the specified picture is stored along with the bookmark data.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 8 to clarify the claimed invention and to distinguish over the cited art. Particularly, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify that a selection menu includes a plurality of choices associated with playback images. Thus, a user can positively and easily understand the content of the playback locations at a glance, even when there are a plurality of choices (e.g., application at p. 3, lines 24-27).

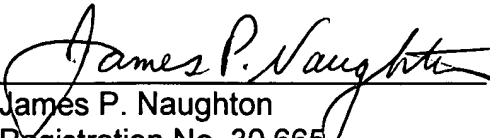
Claims 1 and 8 also have been amended to recite that the playback images associated with the various playback locations are created by reading data stored in the disk storage medium at the time the selection menu is to be displayed. Compared with the approach of storing the images beforehand along with the playback locations, this implementation of Applicant's invention provides the advantage of decreasing the storage space required in RAM (see, e.g., application at p. 13, line 12 to p. 14, line 16). This feature is not suggested in Katsuyama.

Still further, claims 1 and 8 are amended to specify that based on the image data read from the disk storage medium when the selection menu is displayed, I-picture, P-picture and B-picture data are generated, and one type of video data corresponding to the marked playback location is selected for display (see, e.g., application at pg. 13, line 27 to pg. 14, line 7). This feature is advantageous because the exact image that the user marked at the playback location can be displayed.

Claim 6 has been canceled as partially cumulative to the amendments made to claim 1.

In summary, Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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